(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) whether the Union Government have conducted any surprise checking of the fair price shops of these areas during above period;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under joint responsibility by Central Government and State Governments. Central Government makes bulk allocations of each essential commodity for PDS including rice, wheat and sugar to all states and Union Territories including Delhi. All operational aspects of distribution of commodities to the consumers under PDS are matters under the Administrative jurisdiction of State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government has not received any major complaint from U.T. Administration regarding supply of inferior quality of foodgrains.

Central Government issues stocks of rice and wheat conforming to the prescribed quality standards. Instructions have been issued to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to issue only stocks free from infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards. Levy Sugar is lifted from the sugar mills either by the States/UTs and their nominees or by the FCI. States/UTs are allowed to inspect all stocks before accepting the same and have the right to reject stocks not conforming to prescribed quality standards.

State Governments/UT Administrations have the authority under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against persons indulging in malpractices in the distribution of commodities under PDS. Central Government has advised States/UTs to set up Vigilance Committees of consumers at the Fair Price Shop level to ensure people's participation in the supervision of the PDS.

Out of Order Telephones/Telephone Exchanges in Villages

5467. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges/telephones have not been functioning or out of order for the last six months in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such villages, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for making these functional/effective ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism in Goa

5468. SHRI CHURCHIL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of schemes have been formulated by the Union Government to promote tourism in Goa particularly in respect of water games; and

(b) if so, the details and the financial assistance provided thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Union Government does not formulate any schemes for any State Government. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides Central financial assistance for projects related to water sports, on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories under the guidelines of the Government of India Schemes.

[Translation]

Setting up of Electronic Exchanges in Bihar

5469. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the locations in Bihar where Government propose to set-up Super Electronic Exchanges,

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone equipments/material have not been supplied to district Samastipur and other districts of the State for the last so many years and due to which a large number of consumers are in the waiting for connection;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making the supply of the equipments/material; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to release the supply?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no such exchange called super electronic exchange, however at following locations in Bihar extra large digital exchanges are proposed to be set up.

1. Patna

2. Jamshedpur

(b) No Sir. The supply of telephone equipment/material has been steady at Samastipur and other districts of Bihar.